

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5886

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3687

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PTRG, SN, US

SUBJ: COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT: GOS RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S
MESSAGE

REF: A. STATE 188802; B. SINGAPORE 3640

1. DURING CALL ON PERMSEC MFA CHIA CHEONG FOOK ON ANOTHER MATTER, CHIA BROUGHT UP SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. INDICATING THAT GOS RESPONSE WOULD BE LIMITED TO HIS ORAL REMARKS TO ME, CHIA MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. PUERTO RICO - GOS FIRMLY BELIEVES THAT ANY QUESTION INVOLVING PUERTO RICO IS AN INTERNAL MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE DEALT WITH SOLELY BY THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO, AND THAT IT IS NOT A SUBJECT WHICH SHOULD CONCERN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. THEREFORE, GOS WOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORT AT COLOMBO TO INTRODUCE THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE, AND IN ANY DEBATE WOULD BE WILLING TO ADVOCATE THIS POSITION.

3. KOREA - GOS CONSIDERED IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT THE KOREAN ISSUE COULD COME UP IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS (SOME OF THEM POSSIBLY QUITE DEVIOUS), AND THE PRESENCE OF AN ACTIVE NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE OR TO PREVENT A RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT. HOWEVER, GOS WOULD OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD SEEM TO SANCTION A NORTH KOREAN TAKE-OVER OF SOUTH KOREA. IN EFFORT
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TO CLARIFY THESE REMARKS, CHIA EXPLAINED GOS WOULD OPPOSE

RESOLUTION ABOLISHING THE UN COMMAND IF IT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE MILITARY BALANCE. HE ALSO INDICATED GOS OPPOSITION TO ANY CONFERENCE ON THE KOREAN QUESTION WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE THE ROK.

4. CHIA INDICATED GOS FELT THE UNGA RATHER THAN NAC MEETING WOULD BE A BETTER VENUE IN WHICH TO DEVELOP A CONSTRUCTIVE POSITION WHICH COULD PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR CONCILIATION. HE IMPLIED THAT MODERATE GOVERNMENTS AT COLOMBO WOULD BE FORTUNATE IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN BLOCKING OR TONING DOWN UNHELPFUL RESOLUTIONS. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER GOS SUPPORTED SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES ON KOREA, CHIA SAID HE THOUGHT GOS WAS AGREEABLE TO THIS PROPOSAL BUT INDICATED HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK FURTHER WITH HIS MINISTER.

5. COMMENT: CHIA WAS QUITE FORTHRIGHT IN EXPRESSING GOS WILLINGNESS TO OPPOSE INTRODUCTION OF PUERTO RICAN ISSUE AT COLOMBO. ON KOREA, CHIA ALSO SEEMED FAIRLY FORTHRIGHT IN EXPRESSING GOS OPPOSITION TO ONE-SIDED RESOLUTION HOSTILE TO ROK, AND SAID GOS WOULD SPEAK OUT AGAINST THEM IF THERE WERE AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY. HOWEVER, HE APPEARED LESS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GOS TAKING ANY INITIATIVE AT COLOMBO TO DEVELOP A CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL ON KOREA. APPARENTLY GOS BELIEVES THIS WOULD BE BETTER HANDLED AT UNGA. GRANT

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